THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The guidelines laid down under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme permit the construction of buildings for educational institutions, hostels, libraries belonging to the local bodies. Further, as per the guidelines on Implementation of Electronics Projects under the scheme, the HAM Club can be set up only in Government or Government aided high schools/colleges so that benefits of technological advances can be brought to the students at a young age. Thus, the scheme of HAM Club cannot be given to a private club even if it is duly registered and licenced by the Department of Communications, as per the existing guidelines. However, the revision of the guidelines on electronics projects is under consideration.

National Power Grid

2403. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the formation of a National Power Grid; and

(b) whether Government are taking steps to establish a centrally owned electricity distribution system, connecting all the States, so that the States facing deficit in power can get power from the States which have it in surplus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Action for formation of a National Power Grid has been initiated involving inter-connection of regional grids, the details of which are as follows:

i. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Vindhyachal connecting Northern and Western Regions already exists.

ii. A 1000 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions, is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98.

iii. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Vishakapatnam connecting Eastern and Southern Regions, has also been aproved for commissioning during 1998-99.

iv. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back Rihand-Sasaram-Biharshariff Project has also been planned to connect the Eastern and Northern Regions, for commissioning during the 9th Plan.

v. Other links would be taken up as and when additional generation capacity is created and the need and feasibility of other inter-regional transfers of power is established.

(b) Once the regions are interconnected power can be transferred from regions surplus in power to those which are deficient.

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

2404. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has been under operation;

(b) the coverage made under that Programme so far, State-wise;

(c) whether this centrally sponsored scheme is proposed to be transferred to the State Sector; and

(d) if so, by when and the steps taken in the matter?